

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

BIB-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /067 W  
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R 211203Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2874

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 2507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO FR

SUBJECT: SAUVAGNARGUES VISIT TO BELGRADE

1. YUGOSLAV MEDIA PLAY, INCLUDING A CURTAIN-RAISER INTERVIEW, MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BELGRADE VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WHICH BEGAN MAY 21 COULD SIGNAL A MAJOR CHANGE IN BOTH THE STYLE AND CONTENT OF YUGOSLAV-FRENCH RELATIONS.

2. IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE TANJUG PARIS CORRESPONDENT, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS TO MAKE THE YUGOSLAVS HAPPY: FRANCE WANTS FIRST OF ALL TO BE FREE IN MAKING DECISIONS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES; FRANCE WISHES THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA TO BECOME A SEA OF PEACE AND LINK BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS AND PEOPLES ON ITS COASTS; FRANCE HAS TRIED TO BRING CLOSER THE STANDPOINTS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON ENERGY AND RAW MATERIAL PROBLEMS; FRANCE AND YUGOSLAVIA SHARE A COMMON ADHERENCE TO REAL INDEPENDENCE AND REJECTION OF THE DIVISION OF EUROPE AND THE WORLD INTO HOSTILE AND RIVAL BLOCS.

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3. AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTATOR (AND TANJUG DIPLOMATIC EDITOR) VELEMIR BUDIMIR POINTS OUT THAT THIS IS THE FIRST WIDE POLITICAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A HIGH LEVEL FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS IN FRANCE, AND SAYS DISCUSSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONFIRM THE COMMON GOALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLANE. "BELGRADE DOES NOT CONCEAL ITSEXPECTATION," BUDIMIR CONTINUES, "THAT THIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WILL LEAD TO COORDINATION OF THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLANE, AND THAT THE PRESENT TALKS IN BELGRADE WILL CONSTITUTE A BASIS FOR FUTURE MEETINGSAT HIGHER LEVELS."

4. COMMENT: DESPITE A HIGH DEGREE OF AGREEMENT ON MANY ISSUES, YUGOSLAVIA AND FRANCE HAVE FOR A CURIOUS HISTORICAL REASON UP TO NOW MAINTAINED RELATIONS WHICH WERE MORE PROPER THAN WARM. THE REASON: CHARLES DE GAULLE WAS A ST. CYR CLASSMATE AND REPUTED FRIEND OF DRAZA MIHAJLOVIC, WHO LATER LED THE CETNIKS AND, DESPITE THE INTERVENTION OF DE GAULLE AMONG OTHERS, WAS EXECUTED BY TITO AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II. ALLEGEDLY DE GAULLE NEVER FORGAVE TITO AND BLOCKED WARM RELATIONS WITH THE YUGOSLAVS, APOLICY WHICH WAS NOT NOTICEABLY MODIFIED BY POMPIDOU. THIS BLOCK NOW SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED, OR AT LEAST THE YUGOSLAVS ARE ASSUMING IT HAS. THE RESULT ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE CLOSER BILATERAL RELATIONS AND, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, CLOSER COORDINATION OF POSITIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. ALSO, TITO HAS LONG WANTED TO VISIT PARIS, AND IF BUDIMIR IS TO BE BELIEVED (AND WE THINK HE CAN BE) THIS WOULD NOW SEEM IN THE CARDS TOO.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BELGRA02507  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750178-0927  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAUVAGNARGUES VISIT TO BELGRADE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, YO, FR, (SAUVAGNARGUES, JEAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006